

Dear Parents and Carers

Newsletter 13th November 2020

I apologise for the boring format of the newsletter this week – I have not managed to find the time to do the usual newsletter format with photos etc. so I am resorting back to the plain letter format today!

Yr 11 GCSE Information Evening

Thanks so much to all the parents and students who joined us for this virtual event last night. There were a lot of useful questions that came up, and I hope that you feel confident about the available support in terms of wellbeing, mentoring and revision materials. The link to the relevant section of the school website is here (the presentation from last night will be added on Monday) and this section of revision resources will continue to grow over the coming days: <https://bedalehighschool.org.uk/need-to-know/curriculum/revision/>

Another useful link to look at is the exams section of the website which is here:

<https://bedalehighschool.org.uk/need-to-know/curriculum/examinations/>

If any parent feels that they need to have a one to one conversation about the PPEs, GCSEs or support for Yr 11s, please email admin@bedalehighschool.org.uk or call 01677 422419 and we will arrange this for you.

Yr 11 Open Days

Please see attached 2 posters for upcoming open days, one for Northallerton 6th Form, and one for a BTEC Education Programme with Harrogate Town AFC.

Yr 7 Homework Support Evening

This event will take place virtually at 6pm on Thursday 19th November. We will send out a Zoom link to Year 7 parents next week. The idea of the evening is to share helpful advice and guidance to support students and parents in coping effectively with home-learning. This follows on from an assembly in school with Year 7s (last week). We hope you can join Mrs Knight, Miss Bradbury and me for the event.

Extra-Curricular Clubs Paused

Unfortunately, the guidance from the Department for Education now states that schools should not be running extra-curricular clubs and activities after school during the lockdown period. We are absolutely gutted about this because we think it is an essential part of student wellbeing, but we have 'paused' these activities for the moment (unless they can be run during the school day which is still allowed). The one exception to this is the work that continues for the production of Blood Brothers. I have sought further guidance around this because we know that a significant number of vulnerable students are involved in the project and I was reluctant to remove this from their provision. As such, rehearsals continue but within very strict Covid-compliant conditions. Mrs Woodward has done a brilliant job in coming up with a clear and robust plan around this to ensure we keep everyone as safe as

possible, while also allowing the show to go on. Clearly, we don't yet know if we will be able to put on live performances for parents and visitors, but if not, we will look to film it and share it with you.

Schools are still allowed to run after school revision sessions, homework clubs and detentions – so all these continue as normal for the moment.

Anti-Bullying Week

Miss Bradbury writes: On Monday we will be supporting anti-bullying week by taking part in Odd Socks Day. Students and staff can wear odd socks (must be ankle length) for the day either with their trousers or over their tights. Poster is attached. There will be a prize for the best odd pair!

The theme for Anti-Bullying Week 2020 is: United Against Bullying. Anti-Bullying Week will happen from Monday 16th - Friday 20th November and will start with Odd Socks Day to mark the first day of Anti-Bullying Week. Last year 75% of schools in the country took part, reaching well over 7 million young people. As a school we want to raise awareness of anti-bullying and show we are united with students across the country. 'We're all a piece in the puzzle, and together, we're united against bullying.'

I'll be digging out my best Christmas socks for the occasion! I hope you all join me (Christmas theme optional!) 🎄❄️📺

Health Care Plans and Asthma Forms

If any parents have received these forms and still have them at home, please could you return them to school as soon as possible for the attention of Mrs Spence. These forms help us to ensure that we have plans in place to ensure the safety of students with medical conditions like this.

Wellbeing

You will know by now that we often share resources with you around wellbeing and try to keep you up to date with the latest channels of support that are available to our families and young people. This week I would like to promote Youthability. It offers the chance for young people to make contact if they are feeling overwhelmed or worried about things, and offers them a listening forum where they will be signposted to further help and advice by experienced NYCC staff. Please see the attached poster.

Teenage Cancer Trust

Miss Riley-Fox has asked me to thank the parents who have already responded by donating generously to this cause. We have two amazing hampers up for grabs and the draw will be made on the 16th November. You have until 3pm on Monday to buy your lucky number on Parentpay!

Yr 8 and Yr 10 - Growing Up in North Yorkshire Survey

This survey helps us gather useful data around students' attitudes to wider issues that affect their day to day lives. We are then able to use this to inform whether we need to review how we teach certain topics, or whether there are any important gaps in the knowledge of our students around these topics. Please see the attached letter for further details.

Lockdown Reminders

The police have contacted all schools in the area this week, asking us to remind our families about the current lockdown rules. They are receiving a number of complaints across the district about young people breaching the current restrictions by congregating in public areas. We are very grateful for your ongoing support in ensuring that our students take these restrictions seriously and stay at home during this period. A reminder poster is attached.

Online Safety – Resources for Families

The Thinkuknow online safety packs are still available to share with parents and carers for use at home. They include fun activities, conversation starters and practical tips on topics such as sharing images, watching videos, live streaming and cyber security. Please visit <https://thinkuknow.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2ae276529dabe14cecc1d261e&id=c1a781f3f7&e=2bd4a33b94> .

Have a great weekend, everybody, and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Tom Kelly

Headteacher